

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

During a telephonic interview between the undersigned attorney and the examiner on January 12, 2005, the various rejections of the claims were discussed with respect to the present invention and the cited prior art references. A summary of the telephonic interview is presented below. At the conclusion of the telephonic interview, it was agreed that: (1) the Internet Key Exchange (IKE) protocol RFC 2409, IP Security (IPSec) protocol RFC 2401, and Internet Security Association Key Management Protocol (ISAKMP) RFC 2408 are not considered essential material; (2) the various objections to the disclosure will be withdrawn provided applicant defines the terms for MIPS, HSSI, POS and FDDI; (3) the objections to claims 34 and 40 relating to the claimed term CPU will be withdrawn; (4) Mann, et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of identifying reason information relating to at least one reason for generating a control message, nor does man teach or suggest the feature of generating a first control message which includes the identified reason information.

Regarding the examiner's objections to the drawings, Figure 4 has been amended to remove reference characters not mentioned in the description. The specification has been amended to include a description for reference number 308 of Figure 3. No new matter has been added.

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to comply with MPEP Section 608.01(b).

As discussed during the telephonic interview, it was agreed that the Internet Key Exchange (IKE) protocol RFC 2409, IP Security (IPSec) protocol RFC 2401, and Internet Security Association Key Management Protocol (ISAKMP) RFC 2408 are not considered essential material. Accordingly, applicant requests that the examiner withdraw any objection to incorporation by reference of these protocols.

The specification has been amended for clarification purposes in accordance with the examiner's suggestions on page 3 of the office action. As discussed during the telephonic interview, it was agreed that the various objections to the disclosure would be withdrawn provided applicant defines the terms for the acronyms MIPS, HSSI, POS and FDDI.

Independent claims 1, 7, 14, 19, 26, 34, and 40 are rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as the anticipated by Mann et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a method for generating a control message to be transmitted from a first network device to a second network device in a data

network, the control message relating to an action to be performed at the second network device. The method comprises determining a first control message to be generated; identifying reason information relating to at least one reason for generating the first control message; and generating the first control message, the first control message including said reason information.

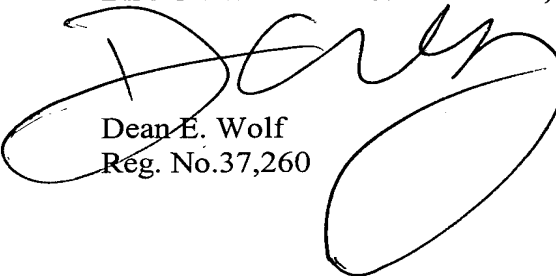
The Examiner states that Mann in column 1, lines 44-49 and 62-68 teaches these features. However, it was agreed to during the telephonic interview that Mann, et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of identifying reason information relating to at least one reason for generating a control message, nor does Mann, et al. teach or suggest the feature of generating a first control message which includes the identified reason information. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Mann et al. or the other cited prior references.

Independent claims 7, 14, 19, 26, 34, and 40 define features similar to those defined in claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above in support of claim 1. Additionally, the dependent claims of the present application dependent are also believed to be allowable since they depend from the independent claims.

Because claims 1-45 are believed to be allowable in their present form, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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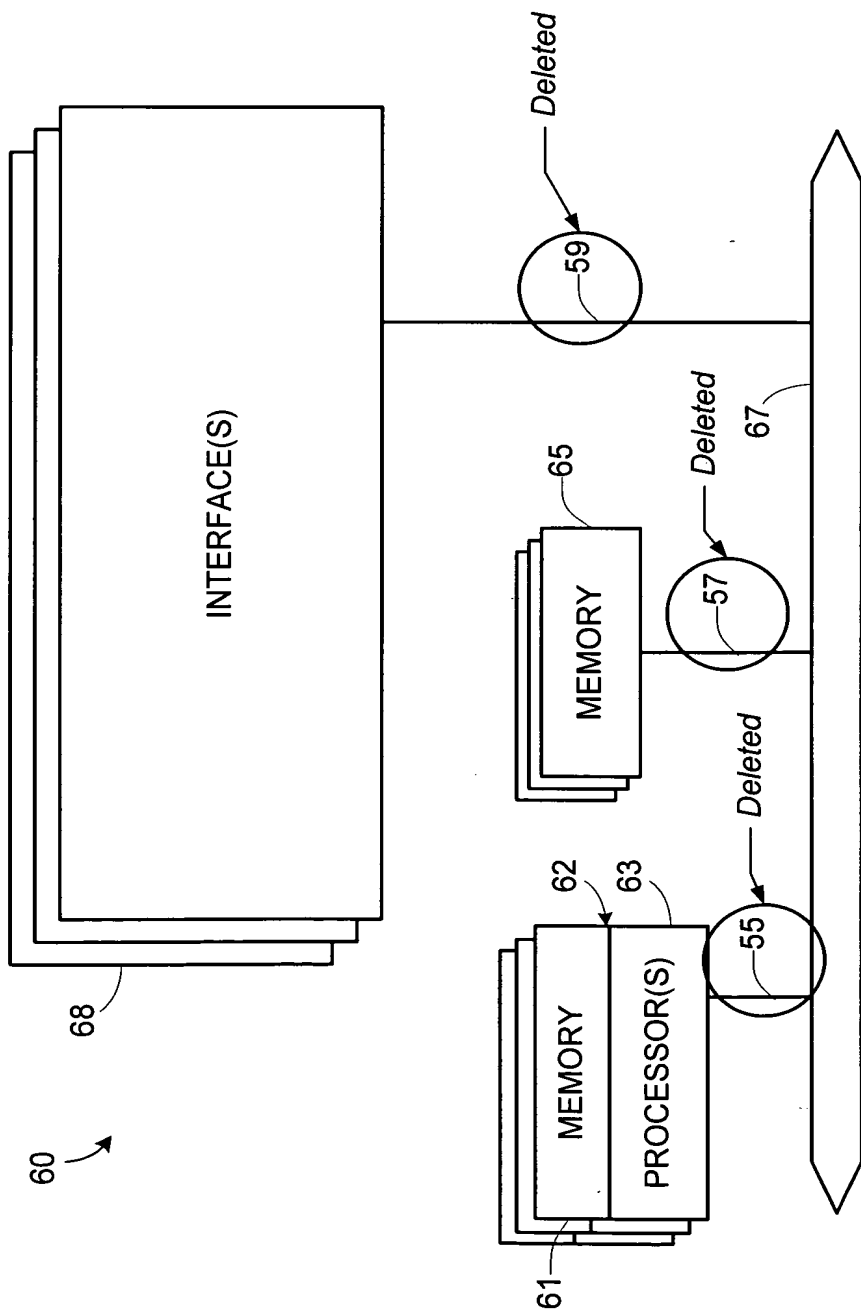
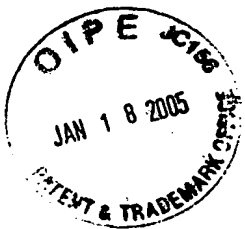


Figure 4